

REMARKS

FORMAL MATTERS:

Claims 19-76 were examined. Claims 19, 21-33, 36-58 and 60-76 were rejected. Claims 20, 34, 35 and 59 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but were otherwise indicated to be allowable if written in independent form. Claims 1-18 were previously canceled.

By this Amendment, claims 19, 58, 68 and 70 have been amended to include the limitation of the angle between the host vessel and the graft upon formation of an anastomosis, which is the limitation of allowable claims 20 and 59, which claims have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 48 and 49 have also been amended to correct the dependency of the claims. The amendments have been made in order to expedite prosecution and in no way indicate the applicant's acquiescence to the rejections.

Claims 19, 21-58 and 60-76 are pending after entry of the amendments set forth herein.

REJECTIONS UNDER §102

Claims 19, 21-30, 41, 42, 45-53, 55-58 and 60-69 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Peterson et al. (USPN 6,152,937).

As independent claims 19, 58 and 68 have been amended to include an allowable claim limitation, these rejections have been traversed.

REJECTIONS UNDER §103(A)

Claims 31-33, 36-40, 43, 44, 54 and 70-76 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Peterson et al. in view of Nash et al. (USPN 6,402,767).

As independent claims 19, 70 and 75 have been amended to include an allowable claim limitation, these rejections have been traversed.

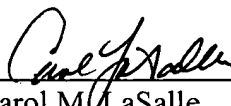
CONCLUSION

Applicant submits that all of the claims are in condition for allowance, which action is requested. If the Examiner finds that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any underpayment of fees associated with this communication, including any necessary fees for extensions of time, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0815, order number CNVG-007CON2.

Respectfully submitted,
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